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Philips is targeted in investigation

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AMSTERDAM — Philips Electronics, the largest maker of consumer electronics in Europe, said Wednesday that it had been included in investigations into possible anti-competitive activities in the glass-tube display industry.

The competition authorities in several jurisdictions had started investigations, the company said. It would assist regulators, it added.

"As these matters are in the very early stages, Philips is not in a position to predict or comment on their outcome," the company said.

Joon Knapen, a Philips spokesman, declined to comment further.

Antitrust authorities in Europe and Asia raided a Matsushita Electric Industrial unit and other cathode-ray-tube makers this month on suspicion of price fixing. Cathode ray tubes are used in television sets and computer monitors, although the market for them has shrunk with the advent of liquid crystal and plasma displays.

Matsushita had confirmed that the Fair Trade Commission of Japan had begun investigation of its cathode ray tube unit, MT Picture Display. Samsung SDI said the FTC of South Korea had started an inquiry into its CRT business.

The European Commission, the European Union's antitrust authority, said this month that it had conducted surprise visits of manufacturers of cathode-ray tubes used in computers and televisions, without identifying the companies involved.

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